

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 FEA-01 /121 W

----- 036454

R 181505Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4799

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS CS

SUBJECT: SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING ICES COMMITTEES

FOR OES/OFA/MST ATTN: R. DE HAAN/J. BARNES

FROM R.L. EDWARDS, DELEGATE, ICES

1. BACKGROUND, 1) SINCE 1970 ICES HAS DEVELOPED AN EXCESSIVE CONCERN FOR PRAGMATIC FISHERY SCIENCE AND DATA NEEDS. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS PARALLELED THE INCREASING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FISHING NATIONS AS STOCKS DECREASED AND AS THEIR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL BECAME LESS TRACTABLE, COMMITTEES (LESS SO) AND WORKING GROUPS (MORE SO) PROLIFERATED TO PROVIDE REQUESTED SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT. 2) COMMITTEES FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS EACH AND EVERY PAPER SUBMITTED. 3) ICES RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DETERMINING NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES. 4) NEW AGENCIES

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ARE PUTTING NEW DEMANDS ON ICES (E.G. OSLO COMMISSION,

GDANSK CONVENTION) AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO HOW SHOULD GROUPS AS THE LIAISON COMMITTEE SHOULD RESPOND. ONE EXTREME SITUATION WOULD BE A SEPARATE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR EACH COMMISSION.

2. NEW COMMITTEES ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE BETTER SCIENTIFIC FOCUS TO PROBLEM AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE:

1) MARICULTURE, GROWING INTEREST, PRESENTLY RELATED MATERIAL IS INCLUDED IN TWO COMMITTEES-FISHERY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MOSTLY, AND SHELLFISH AND BENTHOS.

2) MARINE PATHOLOGY, ANOTHER AREA OF GROWING INTEREST. THREE GENERAL AREAS OF NEED A) AS PRINCIPAL COMPONENT OF NATURAL MORTALITY, B) AS CAUSED BY POLLUTION, AND C) AS IT BEARS ON THE EFFICACY OF AQUACULTURE. A FAST GROWING FIELD OF EXTREME POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE.

3) POLLUTION COMMITTEE, NOT BEST TITLE, OBVIOUSLY. RESTRICTION OF F.I.C. TO MATTERS STRICTLY RELATING TO MARINE POLLUTION, ITS MANIFESTATION, SOURCES, ANALYTIC TECHNIQUES, DISTRIBUTION, AND EFFECTS.

4) ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE, PLACE WHERE SYNTHETIC STUDIES ARE DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED. PRESENTLY WE ARE IN FIRST APPROXIMATION MODELING PHASE. NEED ARENA FOR DISCUSSIONS, AS FOR EXAMPLE, DELINEATION OF PRINCIPAL "COMPONENTS" (E.G. LARGE VS. SMALL ZOOPLANKTON, BENTHIC WATER BOTTOM INTERFORCE ORGANISMS, ETC.) AND THEIR QUANTITIZATION, ALSO METHODS AND TECHNIQUES FOR OBTAINING APPROPRIATE INPUT DATA.

5) POPULATION DYNAMICS COMMITTEE: THEORY AND PRACTICE IN LIVING RESOURCE ASSESSMENT. AN ACTIVE FIELD THAT NEEDS SPECIFIC ATTENTION.

THE ABOVE ARE 5 POSSIBLE NEW COMMITTEES-THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES. THEY WOULD TEND TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON CONCEPTS RATHER THAN PRAGMATICS. SO THAT ONE MAY CARRY ON WITHOUT UNDULY EXTENDING THE TIME OF THE ICES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING (PLUS 10 DAYS), I WOULD SUGGEST ELIMINATING THE FOLLOWING

1. DEMERSOL FISH COMMITTEE, BOTH N & S, AND

2. PELAGIC FISH COMMITTEE BOTH N. & S. AND SUBSTITUTING INSTEAD APPROPRIATE WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE POPULATION DYNAMICS COMMITTEE.

3. WORKING GROUPS ARE ONLY SEMIPERMANENT AT BEST. MANY ARE 'ONE-SHOT' DEALS. THE WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE ADVISED MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THEY ARE BUT THEY ARE HARDLY WORTH SERIOUS ATTEMPT AT REVISION WHEN THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IS LESS THAN ADEQUATE. DEALING WITH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE ITSELF WILL BRING ABOUT ANY NEEDED CHANGES IN WORKING GROUPS. HOWEVER, CHANGES ARE NEEDED IN THE NATURE OF DOING WORKING GROUP BUSINESS. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL DEALT WITH IN WORKING GROUPS IS REHASHED IN EXCESSIVE DETAIL DURING COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THIS OFTEN SEEMS TO BE A USELESS EXERCISE SINCE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SELDOM CHANGED SUBSTANTIVELY. IN ANY EVENT WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE READ BEFORE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND NOT REVIEWED IN DETAIL BUT ONLY DEALT WITH TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL NEED FOR MODIFICATION. REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP REPORTS CAN TAKE MUCH OF THE TIME OF A COMMITTEE. COMMITTEES ARE OVERLOADED AS WELL WITH PAPERS. TRADITIONALLY EVERY PAPER HAS ITS DAY IN COURT,WHATEVER ITS MERIT. AS A CONSEQUENCE COMMITTEE TIME IS NEVER SUFFICIENT FOR ADEQUATE DISCUSSION OF ANYTHING. WE SHOULD WORK TOWARD A PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING SOME PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION AND READING OTHERS BY TITLE ONLY, THUS ALLOWING ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXPLORATION OF USEFUL IDEAS AND CONCEPTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING INDUSTRY, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, FISHERIES MEETINGS, FISHING GROUNDS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO04018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0431
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760842/aaaabkhw.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING ICES COMMITTEES FOR OES/OFA/MST ATTN: R. DE HAAN/J. BARNES FROM R.L. EDWARDS, DELEGATE, ICES
TAGS: EFIS, CS, ICES, (EDWARDS, R L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006